

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 SP-02

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P 141515Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4404

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0349

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO SECRETARY FROM PRIME MINISTER THORN

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. ON MAY 14 PRIME MINISTER'S CHEF-DE-CABINET PAUL HELMINGER GAVE DCM THE COPY OF A MESSAGE FROM THORN TO THE SECRETARY WHICH AMBASSADOR MEISCH WILL TRY TO DELIVER IN THE DEPARTMENT LATER TODAY. HERewith FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THORN'S MESSAGE:

2. BEGIN TEXT.

QUOTE DEAR MR SECRETARY OF STATE. I AM WRITING YOU AS AN ALLY, AS A EUROPEAN AND ABOVE ALL AS A FRIEND. QUOTE EUROPE HAS JUST AGAIN CELEBRATED BOTH THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION WHICH LAUNCHED US ON THE AS YET UNCERTAIN BUT ESSENTIAL PATH OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION.

QUOTE AT THE SAME TIME YOUR COUNTRY AND YOURSELF HAVE GONE THROUGH THE PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OF SEEING LONG AND DETERMINED EFFORTS AT HONORABLY SETTTLING A VERY COMPLICATED ISSUE FRUSTRATED. YOU ARE EXAMINING PRIORITIES AND I

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AM GLAD AND RELIEVED TO SENSE THAT AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO

THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO CLOSE LINKS WITH EUROPE, AND IN GENERAL ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY ARE TO BE CONFIRMED AT THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING OF NATOR.

QUOTE I HAVE FOR MY PART HAD, AS YOU NO DOUBT KNOW, TALKS WITH MY BRITISH, FRENCH AND BELGIAN COLLEAGUES AND I WILL BE SEEING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN LUXEMBOURG TODAY. EVEN WHILE WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE BRITISH REFERENDUM, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS, TO PLOT THE COURSE AHEAD AND TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TOWARDS REAL EUROPEAN UNITY. I SENSE IN MY COLLEAGUES A GREAT IMPATIENCE TO MOVE AHEAD, BUT ALSO SOME DISARRAY AS TO HOW EXACTLY TO GO ABOUT DOING IT, AND A LOT OF THIS UNCERTAINTY HAS TO DO WITH AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A UNITED EUROPE.

QUOTE THERE IS NOW A FLEXIBILITY OF ATTITUDES, A READINESS TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS THAT HITHERTO SEEMED QUITE OUT OF ORDER -- AND YET A GREAT RELUCTANCE TO COME OUT IN THE OPEN, A FEAR TO BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE CONCERNING THE DELICATE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE, I. E., THE DEFINITION OF A TRUE EUROPEAN POSITION ON THESE QUESTIONS, ITS LINKS WITH NATO, THE FRENCH POSITION ETC.

QUOTE IT WOULD BE A SAD AND DAMAGING DEVELOPMENT IF THE IMPRESSION WERE TO BE CREATED THAT, WHILE PROGRESS AND EFFORTS ARE MADE IN EAST-WEST DETENTE, IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS WERE TO BE NO MORE THAN PATCHED UP.

QUOTE IT WOULD BE WORSE EVEN, IF IT SEEMED AS THOUGH SOME OF THESE EFFORTS WERE IN FACT DIRECTED AGAINST ONE OR OTHER OF THE PARTNERS.

QUOTE WE NEED THEREFORE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN A CONCERTED WAY.

QUOTE THE TALKS I'VE MENTIONED HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT  
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THAT SOME DECISIVE OPTIONS WILL BE OPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEY SHOULD NOT BE LOST. BALANCED PROGRESS ON BOTH THE ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN FRONTS WILL BE REQUIRED. YOUR FRIENDS IN EUROPE WILL EXPECT YOU TO COME OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF A UNITED EUROPE WHICH COULD, IN ALL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, BE A VALUABLE PARTNER BECAUSE IT WOULD ACT, AS YOU WOULD, WITH LOYAL AUTONOMY IN A FRAMEWORK OF ESSENTIAL SOLIDARITY.

QUOTE I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK THESE PROBLEMS OVER WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME TO EUROPE LATER THIS MONTH. YOU KNOW OF COURSE THAT YOU WOULD ALWAYS BE A MOST WELCOME OFFICIAL GUEST IN LUXEMBOURG. BUT IF THAT SHOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE THIS TIME, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD HAVE A FEW HOURS TOGETHER INFORMALLY, AT THE TIME CONVENIENT TO YOU, EITHER HERE IN LUXEMBOURG OR IN PARIS OR BRUSSELS TO TALK THINGS OVER.

QUOTE POSSIBLE DATES WOULD BE, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, MAY 26/27 FOR A VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG OR A MEETING IN PARIS AND , OF COURSE, MAY 29/30 FOR A MEETING IN BRUSSELS, EN MARGE OF THE NATO MEETING. I WOULD OF COURSE TRY MY BEST TO ACCOMMODATE ANY OTHER SUGGESTION WHICH YOU MIGHT CARE TO MAKE.

QUOTE EVENTS HAVE PUT KEYS TO SOME LOCKS. WE OUGHT TO TURN THEM IF WE POSSIBLY CAN. S/GASTON THORN UNQUOTE END TEXT.

3. HELMINGER TOLD DCM THAT THORN DECIDED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY AFTER TINDEMANS' VISIT HERE ON MAY 12-13. TINDEMANS, WHO CAME IN HIS NEW "MR. EUROPE" CAPACITY, TOLD THORN THAT HIS STUDY WILL DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO US/EC RELATIONS. TINDEMANS WILL ADVOCATE INCREASED PRACTICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND EC, AND HE TOLD THORN THAT THE F-104 REPLACEMENT ISSUE GAVE THE US AND EC A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER "ON A PARALLEL COURSE, BUT HAND IN HAND". THORN WAS PERSUADED BY TINDEMANS' ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF STRENGTHENING ATLANTIC TIES BY DEFINING AREAS OF PRACTICAL COLLABORATION. ACCORDING TO HELMINGER, THORN ALSO WANTS TO PLAY A ROLE IN ANY NEW US/EC  
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DIALOGUE. THORN BELIEVES THAT HIS DISINTERESTEDNESS ASSURES HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE EUROPEANS, WHILE ALLOWING HIM TO DEFEND US INTERESTS AS WELL.

4. COMMENT: I TRUST THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THORN'S MESSAGE BEFORE LEAVING FOR VIENNA AND INDICATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH OF THE VARIOUS MEETING POSSIBILITIES THORN HAS NOW SUGGESTED WILL BE ACCEPTABLE.  
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